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(CIA)

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(BY DANIEL GILMORE)

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE CIA IS GOING DEEPER ABOLISHING ITS OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS EFFECTI CONFIRMED TODAY.

HERB HETU, A FORMER NAVY CAPTAIN WHO HEADED WHEN STANSFIELD TURNER TOOK OVER AS DIRECTOR IN ADMINISTRATION, SAID THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION WITH REDUCED FUNCTIONS GIVEN TO A NEW DEPARTMENT HANDLE THE CIA'S LIAISON WITH CONGRESS.

IT WAS UNDERSTOOD HETU DISAGREED WITH THE DE THE AGENCY. THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE WORD ON WHAT TWO PRINCIPAL ASSISTANTS, DALE PETERSON AND KATHY PETERSON.

WITH SECRETARIES, THE CIA'S PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE HAD A STAFF OF ABOUT 12 AND PUT OUT A WEALTH OF NON-CLASSIFIED MATERIAL ON SUBJECTS RANGING FROM SOVIET OIL AND GRAIN PRODUCTION TO FULL LISTS AND BACKGROUND OF THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SOVIET UNION, CHINA AND OTHER COMMUNIST-RULED NATIONS.

WILLIAM CASEY, 68, CHIEF OF SECRET INTELLIGENCE IN EUROPE FOR THE WORLD WAR II OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES, HAS BEEN CUTTING DOWN ON THE AGENCY'S CONTACTS WITH THE MEDIA SINCE HE BECAME CIA DIRECTOR IN FEBRUARY AS PRESIDENT REAGAN'S NOMINEE.

LAST MONTH, THE AGENCY ENDED ALL BRIEFINGS FOR REPORTERS ON GROUNDS THEY WERE AN IMPOSITION ON THE TIME OF THE BRIEFING ANALYSTS. THE BACKGROUND BRIEFINGS WERE USEFUL FOR CORRESPONDENTS BEING SENT ABOARD, PARTICULARLY TO SUCH AREAS AS THE SOVIET UNION, CHINA, EASTERN EUROPE AND OTHER SENSITIVE POSTS.

CASEY MADE HIS DECISION ON THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE IN AN INTERNAL MEMO "FROM THE DIRECTOR."

REFERRING TO CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS AND NEWSPAPER EXPOSES OF THE EARLY 1970S ON THE CIA'S PAST MISDEEDS, CASEY SAID "THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE PAST DECADE ARE BEHIND US" AND THE AGENCY NO LONGER HAD TO WASTE TIME JUSTIFYING ITS ACTIVITIES.

IN HIS MEMO -- WHICH WAS NOT OFFICIALLY RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC -- CASEY SAID, "OUR EMPHASIS FROM NOW ON SHOULD BE TO MAINTAIN AND ENHANCE CIA'S REPUTATION NOT BY REPRESENTATIONAL ACTIVITIES BUT BY THE EXCELLENCE OF OUR WORK AND THE HIGH QUALITY OF OUR CONTRIBUTION."

THE NEW SECTION WHICH WILL ABSORB THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND LEGISLATIVE LIAISON OFFICES WILL BE HEADED BY ROBERT GATES, EXECUTIVE STAFF DIRECTOR TO THE INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY, WHO WILL REPORT DIRECTLY TO CASEY AND JAMES

CASEY ALSO SAID HE WOULD ESTABLISH A SPECIAL CADRE OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS TO DRAG UP THE CIA'S NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE